

REMARKS

In a first preliminary amendment filed on April 14, 2004, original claims 2 and 7 were rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 1. Claims 2-4, 7 and 8 were also been amended in formal respects to improve the wording and to bring them into better conformance with U.S. practice. Claims 1 and 5-6 were canceled. New claims 9-20 were added to provide a fuller scope of coverage.

By this second preliminary amendment, claim 12 has been amended to correctly depend on claim 9 in order to provide antecedent basis for the "second lug portion" of the relay member recited in claim 12. Claim 15, line 36 has been amended to insert "generally U-shaped" before "relay member" in order to provide antecedent basis for "U-shaped" in line 41 of claim 15.

Early and favorable action on the merits are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Debra Buonincontri

Name

Debra Buonincontri

Signature

May 10, 2004

Date